

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-07 NEAE-00
IO-13 /125 W

-----034267 121854Z /42

P 121844Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0204
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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PARIS PASS USMISSION OECD - AA/NE WHEELER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, EG
SUBJ: CONSULTATIVE GROUP; PEOPLES ASSEMBLY APPROVES
FIVE YEAR PLAN

REF: CAIRO 13217

1. PRESS REPORTS JUNE 12 THAT PEOPLES ASSEMBLY APPROVED
PREVIOUS DAY LAW WHICH INCORPORATES EGYPTIAN FIVE-YEAR
DEVELOPMENT PLAN COSTED AT LE 12,400 MILLION. PEOPLES
ASSEMBLY ACTION TAKEN ON ENTIRE PLAN WITHOUT DEBATE
FOLLOWING STAMP OF APPROVAL GIVEN BY PA PLAN AND BUDGET
COMMITTEE. APPROVAL IS CONSIDERED "APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE"
ONLY. PA SET DATE OF OCTOBER 15, 1978 (OPENING OF NEXT
SESSION) FOR DETAILED STUDY, FOLLOWING WHICH FINAL VOTE
ON PLAN WILL BE TAKEN.

2. COMMENT: PA APPROVAL IS CULMINATION OF NEARLY TWO
YEARS OF EFFORT BY ECONOMIC GROUP. AS REPORTED REFTEL,
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PA PLAN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ASKED TO MOVE
EXPEDITIOUSLY ON PLAN IN ORDER TO HAVE PA APPROVAL BY
TIME CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETS IN PARIS. DESPITE OBJEC-
TIONS BY PLAN AND BUDGET COMMITTED CHAIRMAN FORMER
MINFIN DR. AHMED ABU ISMAIL, THIS HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED
AND EGYPTIAN DELEGATION WILL ARRIVE IN PARIS CARRYING
WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF EGYPTIAN

DEVELOPMENT NEEDS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS. IN THIS CONNECTION, PRESS REPORTS IN SAME ARTICLE THAT PURPOSE OF PARIS MEETING IS TO DISCUSS WAYS TO FINANCE "NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN."

3. IN RELATED ITEM, PRIME MINISTER SALEM ISSUED SPECIAL DECREE JUNE 11 APPOINTING PA PLAN AND BUDGET CHAIRMAN ABU ISMAIL AS MEMBER OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, AT CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING. IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL TERMS PRIME MINISTER'S MOVE MAKES SENSE GIVEN RECENT PA CRITICISM OF GOE ECONOMIC POLICIES. OTHER OBSERVERS TEND TO SEE APPOINTMENT AS RE-EMERGENCE OF ABU ISMAIL AS ADVISER TO PM ON ECONOMIC MATTERS AND AS PM'S EYES AND EARS AT CG MEETING. HIS REAPPEARANCE AT CG, COINCIDENT WITH DEPARTURE OF KAISSOUNI, LIKELY WILL RAISE DONOR EYEBROWS AROUND TABLE AT PARIS, GIVEN FACT THAT KAISSOUNI AND ECONOMIC GROUP IN LATE 1976 REPLACED AT LEAST PARTIALLY DISCREDITED MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP IMPORTANTLY INCLUDING ABU ISMAIL. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FIVE YEAR PLAN, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO14828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780245-0668
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780671/aaaacjqc.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bfd5568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 13217
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2399053
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIVE GROUP; PEOPLES ASSEMBLY APPROVES FIVE YEAR PLAN
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, EG
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bfd5568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014